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EPA Chief Apologizes for Toxic Spill Affecting Rivers in Colorado.docx



Radiation News Clips

Aug 12, 2015

EPA

EPA Chief Apologizes for Toxic Spill Affecting Rivers in Colorado, New Mexico (wsj)

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/epa-chief-apologizes-for-toxic-spill-affecting-rivers-in-colorado-new-mexico-1439321379>

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy apologized Tuesday for a mine spill in Colorado caused by her agency, but she indicated she didn't know much about what happened and would seek to fix any flaw in the agency's procedures.

Radioactive Waste

Radioactive waste program moves forward (bismarcktribune.com)

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/radioactive-waste-program-moves-forward/article_fa345164-a21a-52a0-9ab4-dc1c62cfac13.html

Despite accusations that the public had not been notified of its meeting, a State Health Council of health and consumer appointees on Tuesday approved new rules to allow radioactive waste in special North Dakota landfills. The council noted the protests then moved quickly to set a level of 50 picocuries of radiation in landfills for oil and gas waste.

13 states want judge to block new federal water rule (sentinelrepublic.com)

<http://sentinelrepublic.com/13-states-want-judge-to-block-new-federal-water-rule/69752/>

The state Health Council has voted to allow elevated levels of oilfield radioactive waste to be dumped at some North Dakota landfills.

U.S. politicians stepping up campaign against nuclear dump (ifpress.com)

<http://www.ifpress.com/2015/08/11/us-politicians-stepping-up-campaign-against-nuclear-dump>

In a sign that U.S. opposition to Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury 7.1 million cubic feet of radioactive waste near the Lake Huron shore is snowballing, two Michigan senators are calling for a study by an agency that represents both nations in boundary water disputes.

Cleanup

Sellafield clean-up removes 50-year-old radioactive relic (electronicsweekly)

<http://www.electronicweekly.com/news/industrial-electronics/sellafield-clean-removes-50-year-old-radioactive-relic-2015-08/>

A giant relic from the earliest days of Britain's nuclear industry has been dredged from the bottom of Sellafield's oldest storage pond. The machine, weighing six tonne, has lain at the bottom of the pond more than half a century before being lifted clear last month.

Idaho attorney general 'deeply disappointed' by commerce director's letter on INL nuclear waste issue (idahostatejournal)

http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/idaho-attorney-general-deeply-disappointed-by-commerce-director-s-letter/article_5af1568c-4081-11e5-abcd-1722bba04c5c.html

The U.S. Department of Energy has given Idaho a two-month deadline to waive parts of an agreement to clean up nuclear waste at a federal facility in southeast Idaho or lose doing important research work on spent nuclear fuel, an Idaho official says.

Hanford

Regalbuto confirmed to head Hanford, other DOE cleanup (TCH)

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2015/08/12/3690285/regalbuto-confirmed-to-head-hanford.html>

Monica Regalbuto has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Department of Energy's assistant secretary for

environmental management, responsible for cleanup of Hanford and other contaminated DOE sites.

Safety and Security

New TVA Watts Bar nuclear reactor passes hot functional tests (timesfreepress.com)

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2015/aug/11/new-tva-watts-bar-nuclear-reactor-passes-hot-functional-tests/319311/>

The Tennessee Valley Authority has successfully completed its testing of key operating equipment for its Watts Bar Unit 2 nuclear reactor, clearing the way for additional tests of safety and containment systems before fuel is scheduled to be loaded in the new reactor this fall.

Radiation levels to rise five-fold at newly active Sendai plant (japantimes)

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/08/12/national/science-health/radiation-levels-to-rise-five-fold-at-newly-active-sendai-plant/#.VctOdk0w9-V>

Radiation levels for workers at Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s Sendai nuclear power station are expected to rise five-fold now that the plant's No. 1 reactor has been restarted.

US officials say they can tell if Iran is cheating on deal (SPI)

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/US-officials-say-they-can-tell-if-Iran-is-6439264.php>

Despite a track record of misjudgments about weapons of mass destruction, U.S. intelligence officials say they are confident they can verify Iran's compliance with the recently completed nuclear deal.

Health

Radiation Costs Vary among Medicare Patients with Cancer (ucsd)

<http://health.ucsd.edu/news/releases/Pages/2015-08-11-radiation-costs-vary-among-medicare-and-cancer.aspx>

Cost of radiation therapy among Medicare patients varied most widely because of factors unrelated to a patient or that person's cancer, report University of California, San Diego School of Medicine researchers in the *Journal of Oncology Practice*.

Nuclear Power

Japan Takes Step toward Reviving Nuclear Industry as It Restarts Reactor (NYT)

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/12/world/asia/japan-restarts-a-nuclear-plant-in-step-toward-reviving-industry.html?_r=0

For more than four years since the nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima in 2011, Japan has been debating whether it should permanently abandon a technology that went so disastrously wrong but that for years was seen as essential to its economy.

Nuclear Weapons

Dozens of retired generals, admirals back Iran nuclear deal (WP)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/retired-generals-and-admirals-back-iran-nuclear-deal/2015/08/11/bd26f6ae-4045-11e5-bfe3-ff1d8549bfd2_story.html?hpid=z4

Three dozen retired generals and admirals released an open letter Tuesday supporting the Iran nuclear deal and urging Congress to do the same. Calling the agreement “the most effective means currently available to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons,” the letter said that gaining international support for military action against Iran, should that ever become necessary, “would only be possible if we have first given the diplomatic path a chance.”

Keeping the World’s Eyes on Iran’s Nuclear Menace (TIME)

<http://time.com/3993253/iran-nuclear-deal-john-kerry/>

Distractions shouldn’t derail the goal of denying Tehran atomic arms –They say close only counts with nuclear weapons. That’s something to keep in mind amid the increasingly rancorous debate over the pending atomic accord the U.S. and five other nations have struck with Iran.

Science

New study predicts the slow, inevitable death of the universe (WP)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2015/08/11/new-study-predicts-the-slow-inevitable-death-of-the-universe/>

Like all good things, our universe will one day come to an end. Just how that end will look is still something of a mystery. But one new study suggests that our universe won’t go out with a bang, but with a whimper: According to these scientists, stars are growing dim.

Other

The nuclear waste divide (baltimoresun)

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-nuclear-waste-20150811-story.html>

Nuclear waste disposal is a contentious subject. Nuclear proponents believe the engineering issues are, for the most part, solved, while critics believe major technical questions are unanswered. This divide is as great today as any time in the past.

